

Bumblebee lifecycle



Bumblebee Queen – emerges from hibernation, forages on flowers and finds a nest site.

Main food

Hawthorn



Dandelion



Dead nettle



Hogweed



Look out for

Beautiful Buff-tailed Bumblebees just out of hibernation, they can be very large and very hungry.

Grey (Ashy) Mining Bee, a mining solitary bee, there are no similar solitary bees like this in Ireland, so it is easily recognised.

Orange-tip butterfly, males are easy to recognise, they are white with bright orange wingtips. The females are white with black wingtips. Both have mottled green underwings.



Seasonal actions for pollinators

Spring

MARCH

If applying fertiliser, leave an unfertilised field margin at the hedgerow base.

MARCH

Consider having a species-rich hay meadow as they are an incredibly important biodiversity habitat.

MARCH

Tussocky grass, in warm sunny locations make great Bumblebee nests.

Activities

From the 1st April, try a Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT count), it only takes 10 minutes, to find out more <https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/flower-insect-timed-count-fit-count/>

APRIL

Provide nests for cavity nesting Solitary bees.

<https://pollinators.ie/farmland>



APRIL

If applying fertiliser, try to avoid awkward corners, turning circles, etc. Less fertiliser application = more wildflowers.

Farmers' Wildlife Calendar: Climate Tracker. Record when you see key annual events, e.g. Frog spawn and Blackthorn in flower <https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/farmers-wildlife-calendar/>

In May, take part in the **Festival of Farmland Biodiversity**. This event is run by the National Biodiversity Data Centre <https://biodiversityireland.ie/festival-of-farmland-biodiversity/>

The **Balmoral Show** usually takes place in early May www.balmoralshow.co.uk

MAY

Allow your hedgerows to flower. Do you have some Hawthorn/Whitethorn that flower? If not, where could you allow them to flower next year?

